

REMARKS

The Examiner's Office Action of May 14, 2004 has been received and its contents reviewed. Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the consideration given to the above-identified application.

By the above actions, claims 1-14 have been amended, and new claims 15-43 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-43 are pending for consideration, of which claims 1-3 and 13-14 are independent. In view of these actions and the following remarks, reconsideration of this application is now requested.

Referring now to the detailed Office Action, claims 1-3, 6-8 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Silver (U.S. Patent No. 5,104,818) in view of Yamazaki (U.S. Patent No. 4,727,044) and further in view of Chang (U.S. Patent No. 5,064,775) and Wolf et al., "Silicon Processing for the VLSI Era Volume 1: Process Technology" (hereafter Wolf).

Further, claims 4-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Silver, in view of Yamazaki, and further in view of Chang, and Wolf as applied to claims 1-3, 6-8 and 11 above, and further in view of Zhang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,904,509 – hereafter Zhang).

Finally, claims 9-10 and 12-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Silver in view of Yamazaki and further in view of Chang and Wolf, as applied to claims 1-3, 6-8 and 11 above, and further in view of Miyasaka (U.S. Patent No. 6,455,360).

In response to these rejections, Applicants have amended claims 1, 2, 3, 13 and 14, as shown above, to further recite a step of crystallization of a semiconductor film having an amorphous structure. Support for the amendments can be found at least in, e.g., page 16, line 22 through page 18, line 3, and page 40, line 6 through page 41, line 11 of the specification.

The requirements for establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness, as detailed in MPEP § 2143 - 2143.03 (pages 2100-122 - 2100-136), are: first, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference to combine the teachings; second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success; and, finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. Applicants


respectfully assert that Silver, Yamazaki, Chang, Wolf, and Miyasaka fail to teach, disclose or suggest Applicants' claimed steps in combination with the step of crystallization of a semiconductor film having an amorphous structure recited in the amended claims.

New claims 15-43 have been added to further complete the scope to which Applicants are entitled.

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above and the arguments previously submitted in the Amendment filed April 29, 2004 and the Response filed December 31, 2003, for example, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of all the pending rejections.

While the present application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, should the Examiner find some issue to remain unresolved, or should any new issues arise, which could be eliminated through discussions with Applicants' representative, then the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone in order that the further prosecution of this application can thereby be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,



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